

## Claims

1. An information delivery method for delivering document information that fulfill a previously set delivery  
5 condition, comprising the steps of:

storing said delivered document information;

if an evaluation that said delivered document information is unfit to said delivery condition is received, extracting characteristic character strings from the  
10 evaluated document information;

by using the extracted characteristic character strings, retrieving a document similar to the document evaluated as unfit from the stored documents; and

presenting the retrieved document and the evaluated  
15 document.

2. An information delivery method according to claim 1, wherein the retrieval is done for the documents excluding the documents evaluated as unfit by a user to which said documents were delivered among the stored document  
20 information.

3. An information delivery method according to claim 1, wherein the retrieval is done for the documents evaluated as fit by a user to which said documents were delivered among the stored document information.

25 4. An information delivery method according to claim

1, said method further comprising the steps of:

caluculating the degree of similarity between the retrieved document information and the evaluated document information; and

5 if the degree of similarity is higher than a predetermined value, presenting the retrieved document.

5. An information delivery method according to claim 4, said method further comprising the steps of:

extracting characteristic character strings from the  
10 retrieved document whose degree of similarity is higher than the predetermined value;

presenting these extracted characteristic character strings and the characteristic character strings extracted from the evaluated documents; and

15 presenting information based on the presented characteristic character strings to help decide whether or not to accept that the documents whose degree of similarity is higher than the predetermined value will not be delivered.

6. An information delivery method according to claim  
20 4, wherein said delivery condition includes an unfitness profile, which is a condition under which a document unfit for delivery is retrieved, said method further comprising the steps of:

if information indicating that it is accepted that said  
25 document whose degree of similarity is higher than the

predetermined value will not be delivered is received, adding the characteristic character strings included in said document and the characteristic character strings included in the evaluated document to the unfitness profile; and

5           if information indicating that it is not accepted that said document whose degree of similarity is higher than the predetermined value will not be delivered is received, adding the characteristic character strings not included in said document but included in the evaluated document to the  
10   unfitness profile.

7. An information delivery method for delivering document information to a user which fulfill a delivery condition set previously by the user, comprising the steps of:

15           storing the delivered documents;

          if a request to change the delivery condition is received, changing the delivery condition according to the change request;

          searching the stored documents according to the  
20   changed delivery condition; and

          of the searched documents, presenting a document that does not fulfill the changed delivery condition.

8. An information delivery method according to claim 7, wherein, said method further comprising the steps of:

25           presenting information to help decide whether or not

to accept that the presented document will not be delivered;

if it is accepted that the presented document will not be delivered, storing the new delivery condition set according to said change request; and

5 if it is not accepted that the presented document will not be delivered, cancelling the change of the delivery condition according to said change request.

9. An information delivery method for delivering documents to a user which fulfill a delivery condition set  
10 previously by the user, comprising the steps of:

judging whether a document fulfills the present delivery condition;

if it is judged that the document fulfills the present delivery condition, transmitting the document to the user who  
15 has set said present delivery condition; and

if said present delivery condition is set by changing said previously set delivery condition, retrieving documents which fulfill the previously set delivery condition; and

of the retrieved documents which fulfill said  
20 previously set delivery condition, transmitting to the user a document that has not been delivered to the user.

10. An information delivery method according to claim 9, said method further comprising the step of transmitting to the user who has set said present delivery condition the  
25 documents that are not delivered to the user among the

documents which fulfill said present delivery condition.

11. An information delivery method according to claim 9, said method further comprising the step of presenting the documents that fulfill said present delivery condition and  
5 the documents that fulfill said previously set delivery condition to the user who has set said delivery condition.

12. An information delivery method according to Claim 9, wherein:

said delivery condition includes a fitness profile,  
10 which is a condition under which a document fit for delivery is retrieved, and an unfitness profile, which is a condition under which a document unfit for delivery is retrieved; and  
to retrieve a document which fulfills said present delivery condition, the fitness profile included in said  
15 present delivery condition is used.

13. An information delivery method according to claim 12, wherein to retrieve a document that fulfills said previously set delivery condition, the fitness profile and unfitness profile included in said previously set delivery  
20 condition are used.

14. An information delivery method according to claim 11, said method further comprising the steps of:

based on said presented documents, presenting  
information to help decide whether or not to cancel the change  
25 of said previously set delivery condition to said present

delivery condition; and .

if information indicating that it is decided to cancel said change is received, setting said previously set delivery condition as the latest delivery condition.

5           15. An information delivery apparatus delivering document information which fulfill a previously set delivery condition, said apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing said delivered document information;

10           extracting means for extracting characteristic character strings from the evaluated document information if an evaluation that said delivered document information is unfit to said delivery condition is received;

retrieval means for retrieving a document similar to  
15 the document evaluated as unfit from the documents stored in said storage means by using the characteristic character strings extracted by said extracting means; and

presentation means for presenting the document extracted by said retrieval means and the evaluated document.

20           16. An information delivery apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

calculation means for calculating the degree of similarity between the retrieved document information and the evaluated document information, wherein said presentation  
25 means presents the retrieved document if the degree of

similarity is higher than a predetermined value.

17. An information delivery apparatus according to claim 16, wherein:

said extracting means extracts characteristic  
5 character strings from the retrieved document whose degree  
of similarity is higher than the predetermined value; and  
said presentation means presents not only the  
characteristic character strings extracted by said extracting  
means and the characteristic character strings included in  
10 the evaluated document but also information based on the  
presented characteristic character strings to help decide  
whether or not to accept that the document whose degree of  
similarity is higher than the predetermined value will not  
be delivered.

15 18. An information delivery apparatus according to  
Claim 17, wherein said delivery condition includes an  
unfitness profile, which is a condition under which a document  
unfit for delivery is retrieved, said apparatus further  
comprising:

20 adding means for adding, if information indicating  
that it is accepted that said document whose degree of  
similarity is higher than the predetermined value will not  
be delivered is received, the characteristic character  
strings included in said document and the characteristic  
25 character strings included in said evaluated document to said

unfitness profile and; for adding, if information indicating that it is not accepted that said document whose degree of similarity is higher than the predetermined value will not be delivered is received, the characteristic character  
5 strings not included in said document but included in the evaluated document to said unfitness profile.

19. A computer program executed in an information delivery system for delivering document information which fulfill a previously set delivery condition, said computer  
10 program comprising the steps of:

storing the delivered documents;

if a request to change the delivery condition is received, changing the delivery condition according to the change request;

15 searching the stored documents according to the changed delivery condition; and

of the searched documents, presenting a document that does not fulfill the changed delivery condition.

20. A computer program according to claim 19, further  
20 comprising the step of:

presenting information to help decide whether or not to accept that the presented documents will not be delivered;

if it is accepted that the presented documents will not be delivered, storing a new delivery condition set  
25 according to said change request; and



if it is not accepted that the presented documents will not be delivered, canceling the change of the delivery condition according to said change request.